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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/825,717	04/04/2001	Richard W. Stoakley	MFCP.76395	3160

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EXAMINER

ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/825,717

Applicant(s)

STOAKLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Ting Zhou

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/21/4
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 21 June 2004 have been received and entered. Claims 1-21 as amended are pending in the application. Of the above claims, claim 3 has been withdrawn by the applicant.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-2 and 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moon et al. U.S. Patent 6,385,662.

Referring to claim 1, Moon et al. teach a method in a computer system for organizing and displaying notification items associated with corresponding notifications on a display (icons and

application launch buttons associated with the system applications, displayed on the status bar, as shown by reference character “115” in Figure 1) having a notification area (status bar shown by reference character “121” in Figure 1) (column 4, lines 17-22 and 56-60) comprising identifying an item associated with a notification area icon (the application that is associated with the status bar icon; for example, if an email arrives, a message icon is sent to the status bar) (column 4, lines 20-30 and 56-60) and monitoring an interval of time associated with an activity of the item (monitoring whether the user has selected the message icon within a fixed time period) (column 4, line 49 – column 5, line 13), hiding the notification area icon from view after a predetermined interval of time (if the user has not selected the message icon after a fixed time period, the message icon is hidden, or disappears) (column 4, line 49 – column 5, line 13), and upon meeting an unhide criteria, redisplaying the notification area icon in the notification area (if the system receives an event from the same application that has a previously hidden message, the message icon will be revealed, or redisplayed on the status bar; for example, if there is an incoming email message, the email message icon can be sent to the status area; upon the user ignoring the message icon, the message icon is hidden, or disappears from the status area; however, if the system receives another incoming email, the email message icon will be displayed on the status area again) (column 3, lines 10-13, column 4, lines 29-31 and column 4, line 49 – column 5, line 13; this can further be seen from Figures 2 and 4).

Referring to claim 2, Moon et al. teach arranging the notification area items (message icons) in the order in which the notifications occur (as more notifications are received, they are each displayed on the status bar) (column 3, lines 10-13 and column 4, lines 17-22).

Referring to claim 4, Moon et al. teach determining the occurrence of activity on the monitored and hidden item, and revealing the item by redisplaying the item upon the occurrence of activity. When the system receives an event, notification of that event is displayed on the status bar (for example, if there is an incoming email message, a message icon can be sent to the status area) (column 3, lines 10-13 and column 4, lines 29-31 and 56-60); therefore, if the system receives an event from the same application that has a previously hidden message, the message icon will be revealed, or redisplayed on the status bar). Also, if the user selects the history icon, then the message icons are redisplayed on an history event log and can further be selected by the user, as recited in column 5, lines 39-50

Referring to claim 5, Moon et al. teach revealing the icons in order of the most recently active application through display of the notification icons that has the most recent level of activity. When the user selects the history icon, a history file showing an event log of hidden messages are displayed with information such as time, date, etc. (column 5, lines 39-50); therefore, the user can respond to the event messages according to the most recently active application, or the most recent event message.

Referring to claim 6, Moon et al. teach a computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1 (personal communication assistant "PCA), as recited in column 1, lines 6-15.

Referring to claim 7, Moon et al. teach a computer system having a processor, memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 1 (personal communication assistant "PCA), as recited in column 1, lines 6-15.

Referring to claim 8, Moon et al. teach a method comprising hiding inactive notification item icons that meet a preset threshold of inactivity (if the user does not select an event, or message icon in the history file, the history file is hidden to allow the user to return to the current application, thereby hiding each message representing event notifications in the history file), retrieving a chevron icon (displaying a history icon), and upon meeting an unhide criteria, displaying and arranging each of the notification items in the notification area and removing the chevron icon when there are no more hidden items (once the user decides to respond to the event by selecting the history, or chevron icon, the history file is displayed again, thereby displaying the messages representing event notifications in the history file for user selection, and removing the history icon once the user's response is complete, i.e., there are no more messages in the history file) (column 4, line 49 - column 5, line 4 and column 5, lines 39-50). This can further be seen from Figures 2 and 4.

Referring to claim 9, Moon et al. teach receiving a chevron entry selection signal indicative of user selection of the chevron icon, and in response to the chevron selection signal, displaying each of the hidden notification items on the display (receiving user selection of the history icon and displaying the hidden history file and consequently the messages representing event notifications within the history file) (column 4, lines 39-50).

Referring to claim 10, Moon et al. teach the unhide criteria being met when an entry selection signal indicative of a user selection of the notification item icon is selected by the user from the displayed, previously hidden icons (when the user selects the history icon, therefore satisfying an unhide criteria, the previously hidden history file and consequently the messages

representing event notifications within the history file, are displayed to the user) (column 4, lines 39-50).

Referring to claim 11, Moon et al. teach displaying the notification item icon in the notification area on the display in response to the selection (displaying the history file and consequently the messages representing event notifications within the history file, upon user selection of the history icon) (column 4, lines 39-50).

Referring to claim 12, Moon et al. teach the notification item icon is placed to the far left of the notification area (the message or notification display area represented by character 121 is on the left hand side of the notification area, or status bar represented by reference character 120).

Referring to claim 13, Moon et al. teach a computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 8 (personal communication assistant "PCA), as recited in column 1, lines 6-15.

Referring to claim 14, Moon et al. teach a computer system having a processor, memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 8 (personal communication assistant "PCA), as recited in column 1, lines 6-15.

3. Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oran et al. U.S. Patent 5,757,371.

Referring to claim 15, Oran et al. teach a system having a graphical user interface including a display (column 1, line 66 - column 2, line 1) and a method of providing and selecting options for configuring notification items within a notification area (column 3, lines 1-

11). This can further be seen from Figure 14. Specifically, Oran et al. teach a method comprising retrieving a notification item, wherein the notification item corresponds to an item displayed in the notification area (the sub-elements, or visual indicators on the taskbar of the active windows), displaying the notification item icon (visual indicators representing notification items, such as “Start”, shown by reference character 32, “Microsoft Mail”, shown by reference character 40, and the clock, shown by reference character 34 in Figure 7), a description associated with the notification (for example, the clock shown by reference character 34 in Figure 7 displays a description associated with the clock notification, i.e., the actual time) and a hiding behavior characteristic to be associated with the notification item (the “Taskbar Properties” configuration box shown in Figures 14 and 20 shows descriptions associated with taskbar items and a hiding behavior, such as “Show Clock” for the clock notification item or “Auto Hide” for each and every element on the taskbar) (column 8, lines 52-67 and column 9, lines 10-12) and repeating the retrieving and displaying step for each of the items that are added to the notification area up to a predetermined maximum number (each of the notifications on the taskbar, such as those represented by reference characters 32, 34 and 40 in Figure 7 displays the icon on the status bar, a description, or name/time representing the icon on the status bar and a hiding characteristic, represented by the “Show Clock” or “Auto Hide” properties that can be set through the “Taskbar Properties” configuration box; furthermore, at most, the taskbar can only occupy half of the graphical user interface, therefore, there is a maximum number of items that can be added to the taskbar) (column 7, lines 43-45).

Referring to claim 16, Oran et al. teach a selection signal indicative of a user selection of a choice of behavior for a notification item (check mark next to behavior), shown in Figure 14.

Referring to claim 17, Oran et al. teach a method to reset the behavior associated with each notification item to a default state (the start menu has a default behavior of containing certain menu items; also, the "Taskbar Properties" box has a default value when first displayed, for example, no items checked), as recited in column 9, lines 44-45 and column 10, lines 21-23.

Referring to claim 18, Oran et al. teach display of the notification icon, description and behavior on the display includes displaying the item in an order associated with the appearance of the item in the notification area (users can click on each of the notification item icons in the order in which it appears, thereby displaying the notification items in the order it appears in the notification area), as shown by Figure 8.

Referring to claim 19, Oran et al. teach a predetermined maximum upon which no more items can be added (at most, the taskbar can only occupy half of the graphical user interface, therefore, there is a maximum number of items that can be added to the taskbar) (column 7, lines 43-45). Therefore, if more items are to be added, it would be obvious to replace the oldest items first, in order to allow users to keep the most up to date items in the display area, giving users access to items they are more likely to use.

Referring to claim 20, Oran et al. teach a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 15, as recited in column 5, lines 18-27.

Referring to claim 21, Oran et al. teach a computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to execute the method recited in claim 15, as recited in column 5, lines 18-27.

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 21 June 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. In response to claim 1, the applicant asserts that Moon does not disclose "redisplaying the notification area icon in the notification area". The examiner respectfully disagrees. Moon et al. teach that if there is an event such as an incoming email message, the status message that is sent to and displayed in the status area can be a message icon (column 4, lines 48-60). When the user ignores the message icon for a fixed time period, the message icon is hidden from view (column 3, lines 10-13, column 4, lines 29-31 and column 4, line 49 – column 5, line 13). In other words, if the system receives another incoming email message, the status area will once again display the message icon. Therefore, upon meeting an unhide criteria of receiving another incoming email, the message icon representing an incoming email event is redisplayed in the status bar notification area.

6. In response to claim 8, the applicant asserts that Moon does not disclose "redisplaying the notification area icon in the notification area". The examiner respectfully disagrees. Moon et al. teach if the user does not select an event, or message icon in the history file, in other words, the messages representing event notifications in the history file are inactive, the history file is hidden (column 4, line 49 - column 5, line 4 and column 5, lines 39-50). In hiding the history file, each message representing an event notification in the history file, displayed in the notification area, or message area, is hidden as well. However, if an unhide criteria is met, i.e. the user decided to

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respond to the event and has selected the history, or chevron icon, the history file is displayed once again, thereby redisplaying the messages representing event notifications in the history file for user selection.

7. In response to claim 15, the applicant asserts that Oran does not teach displaying hiding behavior characteristics associated with a notification item and that instead, Oran simply provides for the configuration of the taskbar as a whole and not for the presentation of the various notification items. The examiner respectfully disagrees. The Taskbar Properties configuration box shown in Figure 14 displays the hiding behavior of the clock notification icon, namely indicating whether the behavior of "Show Clock" is selected (column 8, lines 52-67 and column 9, lines 10-12). The Taskbar displays a plurality of notification items, such as the "Start" icon, shown by reference character 32, "Microsoft Mail" icon, shown by reference character 40, and the clock icon, shown by reference character 34 in Figure 7, and a description associated with the notification, such as the labels "Start", "Microsoft Mail", etc. describing each icon. Also, the Taskbar Properties configuration box displays the hiding behavior characteristics associated with the Taskbar, and therefore, the above mentioned notification icons on the taskbar. For example, Taskbar Properties configuration box shown in Figure 15B displays the hiding behavior of "Auto Hide" for the taskbar, which hides the entire taskbar, consequently hiding the notification icons on the taskbar as well. If the taskbar as a whole is hidden, the notification items on the taskbar are also hidden, therefore, the hiding behavior of the taskbar represents the hiding behavior of the notification icons on the taskbar.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

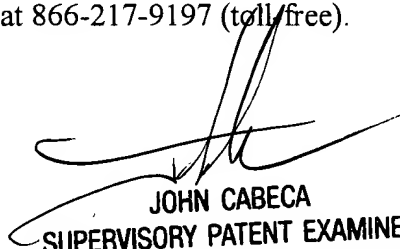
### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-4058.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

21 October 2004



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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